



FOCAL POINT

CITY OF FRISCO • NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2006



Lake Lavon, which is Frisco's water source via the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), continues to measure more than 10 feet below normal due to the worst drought North Texas has experienced in 50 years, according to NTMWD. As a result, the City of Frisco is among 13 member cities (of the NTMWD) remaining under Stage 2 water restrictions. In the meantime, Frisco is using its robot 'Professor Waterwise' to promote water conservation.

'Soak Up The Savings' to conserve water during drought

Frisco is launching a new program designed to save homeowners money, while protecting their home foundations and conserving water at the same time.

"Soak Up the Savings" partners the City of Frisco with three area retailers to provide a discount off the purchase of soaker hoses beginning in March.

For two weekends only, March 25-26 and April 1-2, Frisco water customers can redeem a coupon for 20% off soaker hoses when they shop at home improvement retailers Lowe's, 3360 Preston Road; Home Depot, 5995 El Dorado Pkwy.; and Shades of Green, 8801 Coit Road.

Frisco water customers will receive the coupon in their water bill. The city began distributing coupons on Feb. 24. A coupon is also found inside this edition of *Focal Point* (see Page 3).

The City of Frisco remains under Stage 2 "Special Winter Water Recommendations," which encourages the use of soaker hoses versus sprinklers to maintain foundation moisture.

"It would have to rain more than 20 inches to bring the region's rainfall average to normal for this time of year," said Gary Hartwell, Director of Public Works.

"While the drought continues, it's more important to us as a city that we educate and encourage folks to protect their foundations versus their lawns because their home is their greatest investment. Lawns are dormant this time of year and don't need constant watering," added Hartwell.

During the weekend promotions, the City of Frisco will be staffing tables to provide additional information on water conservation and pub-

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Thanks to the CBC for its hard work

I want to update you on some very important topics impacting the future of our city and how we continue to deal with our tremendous growth and that of the Frisco Independent School District. In doing so, I'd like to share updates on our city's Comprehensive Plan and the results of our City Council Mid-Year Work Session, where we review our goals and priorities.

Our 2006 Citizen's Bond Committee (CBC) made its project recommendations to the City Council in February. For those of you who are new to Frisco, you may not be aware of our process to determine what projects should be considered for a proposed new bond package or the time it takes to make these decisions. A committee of 21 Frisco citizen volunteers have been meeting weekly since October of last year.

Jerry Holder, Chairman of the Bond Committee, presented the committee's final recommendations to the City



Mayor's Message

Mike Simpson

Council and City Staff on Feb. 7. The committee is proposing a total bond package of \$198 million with the following recommendations:

1. **Fire Stations and equipment** — \$20,000,000;
2. **Police Department Improvements and Public Safety Communications** — \$11,500,000;
3. **Roads** — \$100,000,000;
4. **Branch Library** — \$8,000,000;
5. **Heritage Park** — \$2,000,000;
6. **Senior Center Addition** — \$2,500,000;

7. **Cultural Arts Center** — \$5,000,000;
8. **City Hall Parking Structure** — \$4,000,000;
9. **Municipal Court Refurbish** — \$1,000,000;
10. **Parks and Trails & Grand Park** — \$44,000,000.

Total — \$198,000,000

The City Council discussed the proposed bond package during two Special Called Council Meetings. The Council will order an election at its March 7 regularly scheduled Council Meeting in order to be placed on May 13 ballot. Details on the election, voting times and places for the May 13 election are on our Web site www.friscotexas.com

We appreciate the hard work by our Bond Committee which was made up of Jerry Holder, Chairman; Howard Akin, Ken Creager-Vice Chairman, Jeff Dube, Rick Herrington, Steve Hulsey, Jacqueline Miller, Tim Montgomery,

Fred Pascarelli, Ken Pardue, John Pozadzides, David Prince, Hunt Reifschneider, Chris Reynolds, David Schuster, Justine Sweeney, Jeff Trykoski, Glendy Valdez and Paul Williams. We greatly appreciate their commitment of time and input.

In addition to the city bond election, this May our citizens will probably be asked to vote on a school bond election. This would be the first time that both bond elections occur on the same election date. The state legislators changed our possible dates for elections from four dates to two, so on May 13th we will have our general election and the bond issues for both the city and the FISD. With over 20,000 students currently in the FISD system and projected growth to up to 57,000 based on demographers projections, a large group of citizens from within the FISD have been meeting to prepare their recommenda-

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HOW TO REACH US

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March is 'Smartscape' Month

Recycling Update

Watch out, there are trucks about!

Please remember these safety guidelines anytime you're in an alleyway:

- Be careful backing out your driveway. Animals, carts and cars are a few of the things that

may be behind you.

- Be aware that 2 or more collection vehicles will be using the alley on your service day.

- Be on the lookout for pedestrians and cyclists. Alleys aren't just for utility trucks and cars.
- Reduce your speed.

Bagging is Beautiful

Bagging your trash prevents alleyways from becoming untidy due to loose and fly-away trash. Bagging is also recommended for health reasons. Bagging your yard waste (in brown paper craft bags available at hardware and grocery stores) means you're recycling it in the City's curbside compost and mulch program. That's good for the life of our landfill and the environment.

'Neighborwoods' grant program offers free trees

Frisco is helping homeowners "plant roots," literally. The City of Frisco is offering free trees to homeowners who don't already have trees in their front yard through a grant program called "NeighborWoods." The City of Frisco and its Urban Forestry Board recently received a \$5000 "NeighborWoods" grant from the USDA Forest Service to provide 200 trees to Frisco homeowners.

The deadline to participate is March 10. Interested homeowners are selected on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Homeowners have the choice between 10-gallon Red Oaks and Live Oaks.

"The trees were chosen for their beauty, shade, long life and ability to withstand ice storm damage," said Mike Zapata, Chairman, Urban Forestry Board.

New "tree owners" must agree to plant the tree within 40 feet of the curb and water, as needed, for two years. The trees will be delivered March 25.

The "NeighborWoods" program focuses on older neighborhoods developed prior to the 2000 "tree ordinance," which requires developers to plant at least two trees in the front yard of each new home constructed.

The "NeighborWoods" tree giveaway program partners the City of Frisco, the city's Urban Forestry Board and the Texas Forest Service. City officials say there are several reasons why planting trees is vital to Frisco's future.

"Trees improve air quality, lower air temperatures, prevent erosion, protect wildlife and increase property values," said Bobby Johnson, Superintendent of Parks, Parks & Recreation Department.

The "NeighborWoods" project precedes the Urban Forestry Board's Arbor Fest project, which will be held on Nov. 4. at Bicentennial Park, 9349 Sunset Drive. The fall event helps Frisco maintain its status of being a "Tree City USA" community.

For more information on "NeighborWoods", contact Paulette Powell in Parks & Recreation at 972-335-5517 or ppowell@friscotexas.gov.

How Does Your Garden Grow?



Learn how to grow a garden using native, native-adapted and drought resistant plants by contacting the Environmental Services Division. The public is invited to take a free tour of the xeriscape garden, which is located at Frisco Public Works, 11300 Research Rd. See recycled materials at work as mulch, compost and pathways. Learn more about water conservation and take home information to get you started. For more information, contact Wendy Platt at 972-335-5519.

Water

Continued from page 1

lic education programs. Retailers will also be promoting other products designed to help make water conservation, as well as the preservation of foundations, trees and shrubs easier during drought conditions.

"We couldn't do this 'Soak of the Savings' program without the help of Lowe's Home Depot and Shades of Green," said Hartwell. "Despite being friendly, retail competitors, we appreciate their support and enthusiasm for a

program they recognize as necessary for the greater good of the community," said Hartwell.

In January 2005, Frisco residents and businesses used 10 million gallons of water each day. This year, that number doubled to more than 20 million gallons of water each day. Hartwell says despite our city's growth, during winter months our water consumption should measure in the "teens."

"It's literally about making sure we have enough water to meet

our human needs," said Hartwell.

The North Texas Municipal Water District anticipates its member cities, including Frisco, will be forced to move to Stage 3 water restrictions sometime in March — and even Stage 4 by mid summer — if we don't receive any significant, measurable rains between now and then.

Stage 3 water restrictions are considered "severe" and includes prohibiting fountain operations, washing vehicles with hoses and

draining or filling existing and new pools. Stage 3 also limits landscape watering to once a week. Stage 4 is considered an "emergency" state.

"Our goal is to educate citizens about the importance of water conservation, year round," said Hartwell.

"Hopefully, the proactive steps we take now will help avoid more stringent restrictions in the future, while we experience the worst drought our region has seen in more than fifty years."



Don't be a Drip



Above, David Hylton, Water Education Co-ordinator, plays 'Dr. Drip' in a skit geared to teach children about water conservation. "Dr. Drip" is the nemesis of Professor Waterwise, a robot and mascot for the Waterwise program. The two recently performed during an assembly at Shawnee Trail Elementary. If you're interested in hosting the Waterwise Education Program, contact Hylton at 972-335-5510, ext. 110 or e-mail him at dhylton@friscotexas.gov.

Frisco remains under Stage 2 'Special Winter Water Reduction' due to falling lake levels

The City of Frisco is advising all of its water customers to reduce consumption due to falling water levels at Lake Lavon, which is Frisco's water source, via the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).

In January, Frisco moved to Stage 2 water restrictions in coordination with NTMWD and its 13 member cities.

Because of the exceptional drought conditions in the North Texas area, Frisco is recommending water customers take the following measures to reduce water consumption in homes and businesses:

- Use soaker hoses, not sprinklers, to maintain foundation moisture.
- Irrigate landscaping by hand using garden hoses. (The 30-day exemption for new construction landscaping remains in effect.)
- Operate residential sprinkler systems in manual mode - and only once per week.
- Reduce usage of ALL non-residential irrigation systems by at least 10%.
- Do not water during rain or during temperatures 40°F or below. Sprinkler systems found operating in low temperatures, creating an icing threat to public health and safety, will be disconnected immediately without prior warning.
- Do not allow water to spray sidewalks or runoff into streets. A steady stream of water flowing from your property indicates excessive use and is a violation.

For information, contact the Department of Public Works at 972-335-5520.

**20% Off
Coupon!**



Professor Waterwise

Soak Up the Savings!

The City of Frisco has teamed up with local retailers to take **20% off soaker hoses** to protect your home's foundation during the North Texas drought. Redeem coupon on March 25 & 26 or April 1 & 2, 2006, while supplies last.

Lowe's

3360 Preston Rd.
Frisco, TX 75034
972-731-8003

Home Depot

5995 El Dorado Pkwy.
Frisco, TX 75034
469-633-0607

Shades of Green

8801 Coit Rd.
Frisco, TX 75035
972-335-9095

**For more information visit the Department of Public Works website at:
www.friscotexas.gov or call 972-335-5520.**



City of Frisco Project Update

Our city Web site has the most current information on these projects. Go to www.ci.frisco.tx.us, then click on the hard hat at the bottom of the page.

1. Wade Plaza Collector Road

Scope: Infrastructure improvements facilitating the future Recreation Center near Preston and Wade.

Est. completion of construction is March 2006.

2. Independence Parkway (SH121 to Main)

Scope: Construct the western two lanes of Independence Parkway from SH 121 to Rolater and four lanes from Rolater to Main Street. This will complete four lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway.

Est. completion of design is March 2006

3. FM 2934/Eldorado Pkwy (FM 423 - DNT)

Scope: Construct the northern three lanes and the southern three lanes of FM 2934 (Eldorado Parkway) from the Dallas North Tollway to FM 423, which will replace the existing two-lane asphalt roadway. This will complete six lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway with. This project will be let by TxDOT, which will pay for four lanes. The City of Frisco will pay for the construction of the two additional lanes.

Est. completion of design is May 2006

4. FM 3537 Improvements

Scope: Construct the northern three lanes and the southern three lanes of FM 3537 from the FM 2478 (Custer Road) to SH 289 (Preston Road), which will replace the existing two-lane asphalt roadway. This will complete six lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway. This project will be let by TxDOT, which will pay for four lanes. The City of Frisco will pay for the construction of the two additional lanes.

Est. completion of design is July 2006

5. FM 423 Improvements

Scope: Replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway with six-lane divided concrete roadway with curb and gutter.

Est. completion of design is June 2006

6. FM 2478/FM 3537 Intersection Improvement

Scope: Construction of turn lanes and intersection improvements at FM 2478 and FM 3537. Includes engineering design.

Est. completion of construction is April 2006.

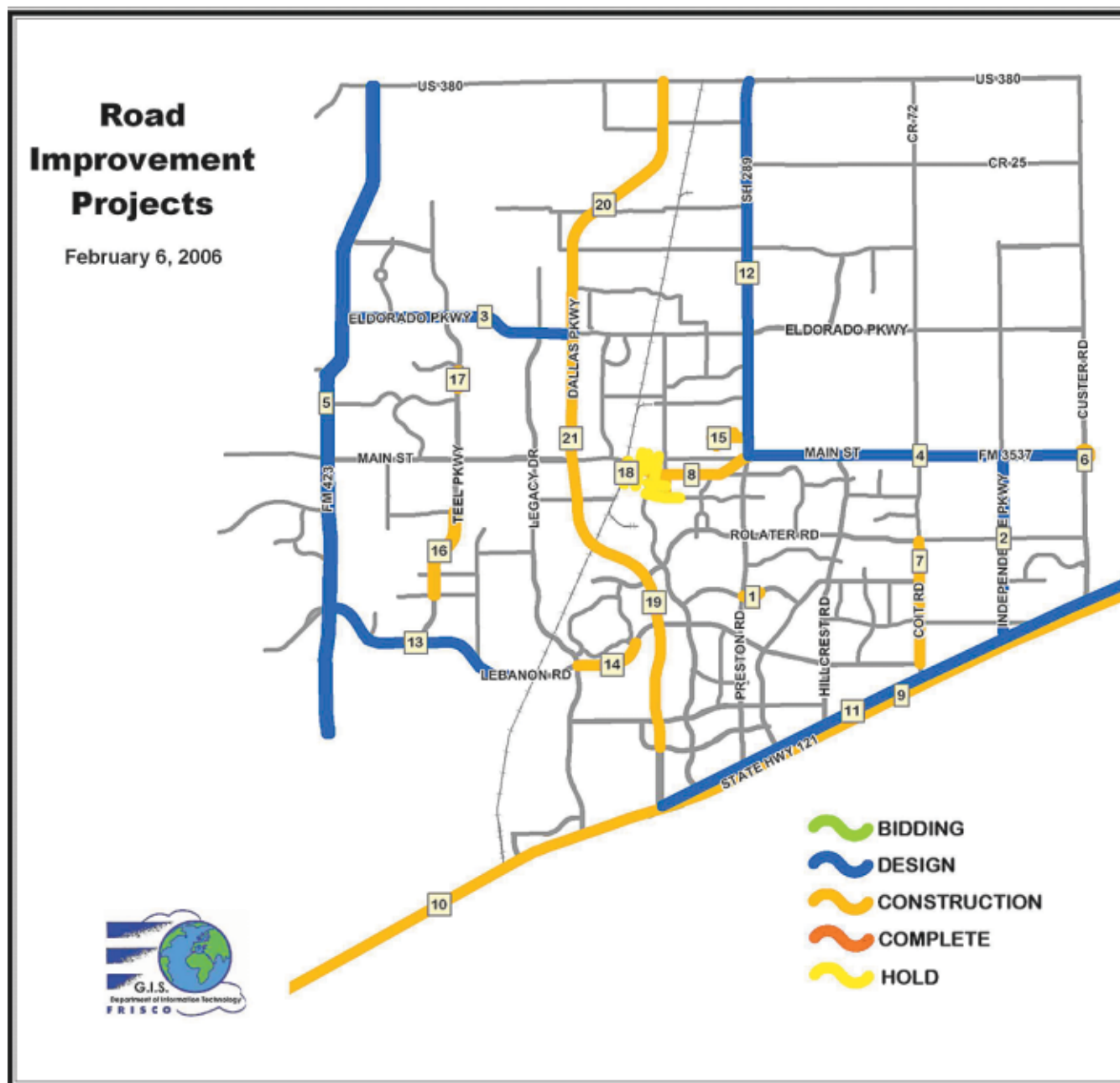
7. Coit Road (Lebanon - Rolater)

Scope: Construct the eastern two lanes of Coit Road from Lebanon Road to Rolater Drive. This will complete four lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway. Landscaping, irrigation, and street lighting are included in this project.

Est. completion of construction is March 2006.

Road Improvement Projects

February 6, 2006



8. Main Street, Phase 4 (RR-Preston)

Scope: Reconstruction of Main Street with concrete pavement, curb, and gutter from BNSF Railroad to Preston/SH 289.

- 2 lane divided roadway from BNSF Railroad to South County

- 4 lane from South County to Preston/SH 289

Est. completion of construction is October 2006.

9. SH 121 Service Roads DNT to US Highway 75

Scope: Construct 6 lanes of service roads from the Dallas North Toll Road to US 75. It also includes a grade separation at Custer.

Est. completion of construction is June 2008.

10. SH 121 Freeway FM 544 to DNT

Scope: Construct 6 main lanes and 6 lanes of frontage roads from FM 544 to Dallas North Tollway.

Est. completion of construction is December 2007.

11. SH 121 Freeway DNT to 75

Scope: Construct main lanes on SH 121 from Dallas North Tollway to US 75.

Current status is PRE-DESIGN

12. SH 289 (Preston Road) Improvements

Scope: Construct the northern three lanes and the southern three lanes of SH 289 from the U.S. 380 to Main Street, which will replace the existing two-lane asphalt roadway. This will complete six lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway. This project will be let by TxDOT, which will pay for four lanes. The City of Frisco will pay for the construction of the two additional lanes. Two million dollars of the City of Frisco's four and a half million dollar participation in this project pays for the previous construction of Preston Road south of Main Street.

Est. completion of design is September 2006

13. Lebanon (Village - FM 423)

Scope: Construct the southern two lanes of Lebanon Road from Village to FM 423 including a three lane bridge at Stewart Creek. This will complete four lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway.

Est. completion of design is June 2006

14. Lebanon Road (Legacy - Starwood)

Scope: Construct the southern two lanes of Lebanon Road from Legacy Drive to Starwood Drive. This will complete four lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway.

Est. completion of construction is May 2006.

15. Preston Trace Blvd. and Sunset Drive

Scope: Reconstruct Preston Trace and Sunset with concrete surface and curb and gutter.

Est. completion of construction is February 2006.

16. Teel Parkway (High Shoals-Timber Ridge)

Scope: Construct the western two lanes and eastern two lanes of Teel Parkway from High Shoals to Timber Ridge. This will complete four lanes of an ultimate six lane divided roadway. Once complete, Teel will be continuous from south of Lebanon Road to Panther Creek Parkway. Street lighting and irrigation are included in this

Est. completion of construction is

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 5

Spellbinding Competition

Seven teams competed for trophies and bragging rights at the annual Spelling Bee, sponsored by Friends of the Library.

"Stayin Alive" of Curtsinger Elementary took home the top trophy. Pictured is Sally Walden, who was one of the reigning champion spellers.

While "Stayin Alive" took top honors, other teams scored points for presentation and pizzazz!



Reeling in Fun

Despite the cold temperatures, more than 700 anglers of all ages showed up for the second annual "Trick-A-Trout" held February 11 at Frisco Commons, on 8000 McKinney Road.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife released 3,000 trout into the park pond. While the first 200 "young fishermen" went home with free, commemorative T-shirts, aside from their prized trout.

The Kid Fish event is sponsored by the Parks Division of Parks & Recreation.



Construction

Continued from page 4

March 2006.

17. Teel Parkway Bridge

Scope: Construct the eastern bridge on Teel Parkway at Cottonwood Creek between Main Street and Eldorado Parkway.

Est. completion of construction is June 2006.

18. Selected Old Town Streets

Scope: Reconstruction of the following streets to concrete curb and gutter:

- South First Street from West Main to Ash
- North Third from Main to Maple
- South Third from Main to

Ash

- North Fourth from Main to Maple
 - North Sixth from Main to Maple
 - South Sixth from Main to Hickory
 - Pecan from Fifth to Seventh
 - Hickory from Fifth to Pebblebrook
- Current status is HOLD

19. DNT Phase 3 Section XI-N

Scope: Construction of main lanes of the DNT from Gaylord Parkway to Platinum Parkway.

Est. completion of construction is September 2007.

20. DNT Phase 3 Section XII-N

Scope: Construction of main lanes of the DNT from north of Eldorado Parkway to US 380. Project also includes construction of the south-bound service roads from Eldorado Parkway to US 380.

Est. completion of construction is September 2007.

21. DNT Phase 3 Section XII-S

Scope: Construction of main lanes of the DNT from Platinum Parkway to north of Eldorado Parkway.

Est. completion of construction is September 2007.

FUTURES Golf Classic in April at The Trails

The Power of a Dream FUTURES Golf Classic is a professional women's golf tournament that will be held at The Trails of Frisco Golf Club April 17-23.

In addition to driving economic impact into Frisco by hosting 144 professional women's golfers, their families, and golf fans of all ages, this event will benefit charities, area high school golf teams and much more!

While the professional tournament play is April 21-23, there are many activities leading up to this event that will assist our community and others in Collin County.

Half of all proceeds from tickets sold by area high school golf teams will go directly to that team. And, those same high school golfers will earn the opportunity of participating in Junior Golf Clinics and getting lessons from the pros.

This event will also benefit Frisco Family Services, in addition to several other area charities.

Finally, an essay contest is being held in March for area elementary children with prizes being given by grade level.

For information, please contact the Frisco Convention and Visitors Bureau at 972-963-9225.

Going to the polls

Candidate filing for May general election under way

Candidates interested in running for Frisco City Council may file for a place on the May 2006 ballot through Monday, March 13 at 5 p.m.

Candidate “information packets” — which detail the minimum requirements for filing for office — may be picked up at the City Secretary’s Office, 6891 Main Street. Candidate packets are available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two seats on the Frisco City Council — Places 1 and 3 — are open.

All positions on the Frisco City Council are “at large” positions. The requirements for filing for office are outlined in the Texas Election Code and the City of Frisco’s Home Rule Charter.

The General Election will be held Saturday, May 13. In an effort to provide voter convenience and encourage higher voter turnout, the City of Frisco will continue to offer three polling locations for early voting and on Election Day. Voters must cast ballots at their designated polling place, on Election Day only.

For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Secretary at (972) 335-5551, ext. 124 or via email at Nparker@friscotexas.gov.

Early voting for May general and special election to begin May 1

Early voting for the May 13 General and Special Election will begin on Monday, May 1 and continues through Tuesday, May 9.

The City of Frisco has three Early Voting polling locations. In Frisco, voters may cast ballots at the Preston Ridge campus of the Collin County Community College, 9700 Wade Blvd. and Frisco’s Fire Station #4, 4485 Cotton Gin Road (which is formerly Platinum Parkway off Legacy Drive).

Voters may also cast early ballots at the Collin County Elections Office, 2010 Red Bud Blvd., Suite 102, in McKinney.

Early voting hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Extended early voting hours are Thursday, May 4 from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 6, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Monday, May 8, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday, May 9, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Two seats on the Frisco City Council — Places 1 and 3 — are open. All positions on the Frisco City Council are “at large” positions.

Voters will also consider a proposed Bond package for the City of Frisco.

The General and Special Election will be held Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. In an effort to provide voter convenience and encourage higher voter turnout, the City of Frisco will continue to offer three polling locations. Voters must cast ballots at their designated polling place on Election Day, only. Voters are encouraged to bring their voter registration cards.

For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Secretary at (972) 335-5551, ext. 124 or via email at Nparker@friscotexas.gov.

Mayor

tions to the FISC School Board. While there have been articles in the paper that show an amount that would take the district to full build out, the Bond Committee is still in the process of evaluating the amount of the bond issue and number of schools that will be needed in the coming years. As with all bond committees they have been receiving presentations on projected growth, status of the last bond sale and schools built or in process. We are fortunate that our FISC tax rate is one of the lowest in the area despite our dramatic growth. While the city of Frisco issued over 3,700 new single-family permits in 2005, the number of new homes in the FISC geography exceeded 5,400. This is because our FISC incorporates some of the fastest growing sections of west McKinney, north Plano and east Little Elm, which all fall in our school district. Residents in those cities will also be voting on the bond issues to be brought forward by the bond committee.

We have another group of 23 Frisco citizen volunteers on our Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). Appointed by the City Council in December 2004, this committee has met more than twenty times and held four public forums throughout the city to receive citizen input. The Planning and Zoning Commission received the CPAC recommendations on February 14 and unanimously approved the recommendations. The City Council is reviewing has received

copies to review and will receive a formal presentation on March 7 and will be asked to vote on approval at that meeting. This is a key guiding document for our city. We have been praised for our excellent job of planning the growth of our city. Our awarding winning Comprehensive Plan was named “best in the state” in 2000 and I am confident the 2006 update will be recognized for it’s excellence. The CPAC recommendations will serve as a guideline for the development of the remaining 60 % of our city. It will cover land use and development criteria that will help us create a unique, sustainable city.

At the City Council Mid-Year Work Session, held Feb. 4 at our senior center, the council reviewed its priorities that we set last June during our annual work session. Our priorities for 2005-2006 are: Roads and Transportation, Facilities & Capital Projects, Ongoing Maintenance of Maturing Neighborhoods, Continue Downtown Revitalization, Frisco Square, Park Development, Tax Base Balance, Expand Cultural Offerings and Expand Youth Involvement in the City. In a future article, I will give an update on each of these priorities.

In an effort to achieve our goal to expand youth involvement in our city, a Mayor’s Youth Council, comprised of high school students, was appointed in January. In a letter to parents, I expressed we want this student council to provide recommendations on entertainment

and sports venues, ordinances and public safety issues that impact our youth. This council will make a presentation to the City Council later this spring. It will these students an opportunity to come before council and express ideas and issues they deem important. We have a fast growing teen population in Frisco and this Council desires to get them involved in our city. After meeting with district officials, the following young people were appointed: Cameron Barber, Devanie Pettus, Joshua Pena, Kristen Hudman, Taylor Kraft and Tyler Ratcliff all of Frisco High School; Andrew Graham, Elora Torres, Katie Spain, Matt Crook, Patrick Kimbley and Raymond Cage Jr., all of Centennial High School Next year, we’ll add students from Wakeland and Liberty High Schools. We look forward to working these young adults and receiving their input.

As you can see, we have a lot going on in our city and many important issues will require your input as we focus on the continued desire of our council, our staff and the citizens of Frisco to make this a truly unique, sustainable city—a one of a kind place to live. Again thanks to all our citizens who gave their time to serve on our bond committees, the CPAC committee and now our youth who will serve on the Mayor’s Youth Council.

— Mike Simpson
Mayor

Proclamations



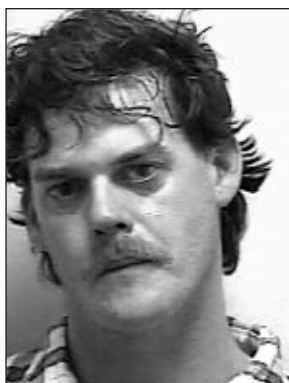
At left, during a recent council meeting, Mayor Mike Simpson, alongside Paul Siebert, Bat. Chief, Frisco Fire, declares February 26 through March 4 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Frisco. This observance corresponds with related state activities co-sponsored by the National Weather Service, Governor’s Department of Emergency Management, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to help citizens prepare for severe weather events and encourage them to educate themselves on weather-related safety strategies.



Above, Mayor Simpson proclaimed the Week of Feb. 19-25 as National Engineers Week, recognizing engineers for using their scientific and technical knowledge and skills in helping to create and build innovative communities.

Continued from page 1

Be on the lookout



Frisco Police are warning residents to beware of Kevin Rowell, 31, who officers have encountered soliciting motorists for cash while standing in medians near S.H. 121 and Preston Road. Officers report Rowell is accompanied by a dog and displays a sign saying his house burned down. Rowell has prior arrests for violating solicitation ordinances in Frisco and neighboring communities. Police also note Rowell admits to collecting as much as \$100 an hour from compassionate motorists as a result of the scam.

FFD Education Programs

The Frisco Fire Department is accepting applications for the following programs:

Citizens Fire Academy — 7-10 p.m., Thursdays, March 23 - May 18

Community Emergency Response Team — 7-10 p.m., Mondays, March 20 - May 15.

Free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Classes — Free CPR classes are offered bimonthly to Frisco residents and employees; 6:30 - 10:30 p.m., March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17. Limited Class Size (20); Registration Required.

First Aid Classes — Free of charge to Frisco residents and employees; 9 a.m., Saturdays, April 22, June 10, Aug. 19, Oct. 14, Dec. 9; Limited Class Size (30); Reservations Required.

For more information, call 972-335-5525 or visit www.friscofire.com

FPD offers auto burglary prevention tips

Auto burglaries can be very difficult cases to solve as there is usually very little physical evidence left behind after one has occurred. These crimes usually occur in the early morning hours in residential areas, apartment or business parking lots when it is less likely the thieves will be seen. In order to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a car burglary we have provided some easy tips to follow. These steps should be used whenever and wherever you park your vehicle, whether you are just "running in for a minute" or parking for the evening.

- Close your windows and lock your vehicle and garage doors. An open or unlocked window/garage door is an invitation to a criminal and easy target.

- Park in well lit areas close to the building, or if at home in the garage. If you must park in your driveway, utilize (or install) floodlights installed above/around your garage set on a motion detector to illuminate your driveway,

as this will help discourage a burglar. Lighting is one of the best property crime deterrents. While parking in an isolated spot may reduce the risk of door dings, a criminal looks for vehicles parked out of the way in order to help ensure less attention is drawn to them.

- Remove loose valuables from your vehicle, including the garage door opener. Stolen garage door openers provide an easy way for burglars to gain entry into your home. This also includes (but is not limited to) purses, wallets, cellular phones, laptop computers, loose change and briefcases. A car burglar loves to see items that can be grabbed easily and carried away without much effort. A brick through the window is all it takes to gain access to those loose items.

- Set your car alarm (if so equipped) and take note of any car alarms you hear going off in your vicinity.

- Call 911 to report suspicious persons seen wandering around in parking lots/neighbor-

hoods (particularly after hours) and/or looking into cars as they walk by.

- Keep a list of serial numbers for your commonly used electronic equipment. Even if you never plan on leaving a cellular phone or laptop computer in your vehicle, you should record all of the following information: Make of Item, Model Number and Serial Number.

Having this information available is necessary in order to enter the items into the NCIC computer database. This will aid police in trying to locate the items if the offender(s) are found with them or if your items are pawned. This will also ensure the property is returned to the rightful owner.

These steps should be used whenever and wherever you park your vehicle, whether you are just "running in for a minute" or parking for the evening. For more information, contact the Frisco Police Department, Community Services Division, 972-335-5603, ext. 107.

Frisco receives 'Storm Ready Community' recognition

The City of Frisco received recognition as a Storm Ready Community at the February 21 Council Meeting from the National Weather Service (NWS). Focusing on planning, education, and awareness, the Storm Ready Program, coordinated by NWS, assists interested communities with developing communications and safety skills needed to protect lives and property before and during actual severe weather events and other emergency situations.

As one of 1,026 communities nationwide to have received such recognition to date, Frisco demonstrated to National Weather Service officials that our weather monitoring and information dissemination capabilities meet or exceed National Weather Service requirements. Frisco Fire Stations equipped with weather radar capabilities, a number of personnel formally trained as Storm Spotters, an expanding Outdoor Warning Siren System, and a Reverse 911 mass communication system combine to facilitate the City's ability to receive and pass along warnings and other vital information to citizens as quickly as possible. Also important is the dedication and commitment of local leaders to the safety and well being of its citizens.

Mr. Bunting presented a certificate to Mayor Mike Simpson along with two Storm Ready road signs at the meeting following a brief discussion of the criteria for the designation. Mr. Bunting also provided a brief discussion about severe weather and encouraged everyone to take personal responsibility for emergency preparedness.

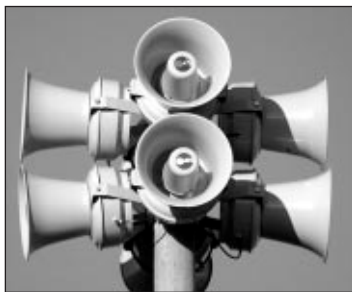
* Warning - A thunderstorm or

tornado warning, on the other hand, means that a thunderstorm or tornado has actually been sighted or has been indicated on NWS weather radar. A warning means that those persons in the affected area should take cover immediately and remain there until the threat has passed. Again, local television and radio stations are good sources of information regarding severe weather warnings.

Severe weather can develop quickly and with little warning. Always consider weather conditions and forecasts when planning outdoor activities, and take immediate cover when severe weather threatens.

Outdoor Warning Siren System

The City of Frisco operates an Outdoor Warning Siren System designed to notify residents of hazardous situations such as impending severe weather. Frisco recently installed eight additional warning sirens, bringing the total to 24 sirens located strategically throughout the city. The sirens are capable of being activated simultaneously to provide a generalized warning for the entire community, or initiated individually to provide more localized alerts. Personnel at



Central Fire Station, the 911 Dispatch Center at the Frisco Police Department, as well as personnel assigned to certain Fire Department apparatus may activate the system as needed.

The sirens will sound in the event a tornado or funnel cloud is sighted in Frisco or if the NWS issues a tornado warning for our specific area. The sirens will emit a wailing tone, described as a constant sound with an increasing/decreasing tone caused by siren rotation, for three minutes. Further information and directions to take cover will be broadcast through the sirens' public address system following the wailing tone. Remember to take cover immediately upon hearing the sirens.

The Outdoor Warning Siren System is silently tested every day and is audibly tested at noon on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. The monthly audible test lasts for one minute and is followed by an announcement over the public address system stating that a test of the system has been conducted.

Tornado Safety for Texans

The most important rule to remember when Outdoor Warning Sirens sound, a tornado is sighted, or a specific warning is issued, is to get low and stay low.

Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of the home, such as a bathroom, closet, or other room without windows. If caught in an office building, school, shopping center, etc, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor or to the des-

ignated shelter area. Avoid areas near exterior glass or doors, areas along exterior walls, or rooms with wide-expanse roofs like gyms, auditoriums, and cafeterias.

Leave mobile homes and vehicles immediately and take shelter in a nearby building. If no building is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or ravine. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

Burn Ban Still In Effect

A reminder to residents that in spite of the recent rainfall, all outdoor burning continues to be banned in Collin and Denton counties. Due to the existing drought and windy conditions, the potential is still extremely high for grass and trees to become fast-burning fuel for even a small spark from a heat



source. It only takes one carelessly discarded cigarette butt to start a grass fire, which can destroy acres of land and threaten nearby homes and businesses. As well, any use of outdoor grills or heat-generating tools such as welding devices should be used with caution.

Hometown Happenings

All meetings are held in the Frisco Council Chambers, Frisco Municipal Complex, 8750 McKinney Road, unless noted otherwise.

March 1

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.

March 2

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.

March 6

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Frisco Public Arts Meeting, 6891 Main Street
Main Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.

March 7

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Downtown Advisory Board Meeting, City Hall
Main Conference Room, 6891 Main Street, 12 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 8

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB), TBD, 12 p.m.
Arts of Collin County (ACC), City of Allen 4 p.m.
Housing Trust Fund, 6891 Main Street
Main Conference Room, 7 p.m.

March 9

Parks and Recreation Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 13

Frisco Square Municipal Management District Meeting,
Frisco Senior Center, 4:30 p.m.
Municipal Court, 5:30 p.m.

March 14

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 15

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Economic Development Corp.
Board of Directors Meeting (EDC),
6801 Gaylord Parkway, 6 p.m.

March 16

CDC Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 20

Frisco Neighborhood Watch
Block Captains Meeting, 6 p.m.

March 21

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 5:30 pm

March 22

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
Arts of Collin County (ACC), City of Allen, 4 p.m.
Urban Forestry Board, 6726 Walnut Street, 6:30 pm

March 23

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.
North Texas Municipal Water District Meeting,
505 East Brown Street, Wylie, TX, 4 p.m.
Frisco Public Library Foundation Board Meeting,
Library Programming Room, 7 p.m.

March 27

Municipal Court, 8 a.m.

March 28

Heritage Foundation, 10 a.m.
Planning & Zoning, 6:30 p.m.

A Night to Remember



More than 3,300 Dads and their dates packed the grand ballroom of the Frisco Conference Center for the 10th anniversary of the Daddy Daughter Dance, held February 11.



This year, the Frisco tradition featured longer dances, a new venue, more tickets — and an optional buffet for the first time. Dancers dressed in everything from tuxedos and tiaras to boots and jeans, to compliment the “Boots and Ties” ball theme. The annual event is a proud production of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department.